

From the Chairman

Dear Friends,

In all, this has been a difficult year for CCP13. This is almost entirely due to the lack of success I had in obtaining funding from BBSRC (and EPSRC) for a three year funding of future activities. What was most galling was that I believe that we had made great leaps forward with a project proposal that was supported by facilities such as DIAMOND, ISIS and the ESRF who were willing to put significant funding into the project. Cardiff and Reading Universities also committed themselves to financial support; in total over £200,000 was pledged. I am led to believe that the grant was rejected on the grounds that CCP13 activity is not critical to the community it serves. I obviously disagree. The establishment of DIAMOND and the additional capabilities that will be available in the near future at TS2 mean that software support for data reduction and modelling is needed more than ever. However, the days of major core grant funding for CCP projects are probably over for the foreseeable future.

We therefore have to consider a way forward in the near future that requires evolution of CCP13 and proves to future funders that we are re-engaged with a vibrant community using software produced under the CCP13 banner to do world class science. Plans to move toward this position are already taking shape. Individual groups including my own are seeking (and receiving!) grant funding to work on specific projects for software development. Working as a collective, and defining specific projects based around specific scientific goals, may be part of the answer; it appears to work for some other CCP groups. It also looks as if some of the funding pledged in the original grant application may be used to employ researchers in software development, which is excellent news. In addition, I intend in the immediate future to apply for "Tools and Resources" funding in order to establish a dialogue with all users, and potential users, of the community. If this is successful, expect me to visit you in 2006/7!

I'd like to end on a positive note, and I hope that the 80+ of you who attended the Cardiff meeting from all corners of the globe will all agree that it was a great success and that you now think the weather here in Wales is fantastic. I certainly enjoyed hosting the event and look forward to a repeat performance in 2007 to celebrate the inauguration of (and to show off) my new School Building. Finally, I'd like to thank all the members of the executive who made crucial contributions to the grant proposal, it seemed like such a good idea at the time.

Tim Wess
Cardiff University, March 2006

From the Editor

Dear All,

You will have seen from the Chairman's report that CCP13 is suffering from a lack of central funding at the moment. This also has had its impact on the production of Fibre Diffraction Review. However, in my view, having something in our field like Fibre Diffraction Review to inform non-crystalline diffractionists of both software and hardware developments and to provide a forum for young scientists to present their work in abstracts from the CCP13 Workshops and as selected, expanded poster prize papers is a good way of fostering a healthy and thriving community. For this reason it is my intention to keep editing and producing Fibre Diffraction Review for the foreseeable future. The Journal will at least appear annually in electronic format on the CCP13 website (www.ccp13.ac.uk) and if possible will also be produced and circulated in hard copy. However, production of hard copy is expensive and production this way will depend on the demand from CCP13 members and the amount of funding available.

The present volume includes updates on our own CCP13 software suite, namely FibreFix, which I encourage you to use for yourselves since it is becoming more and more powerful for many different NCD applications, and also, courtesy of Nick Terrill, on progress with the NCD part of Diamond.

John Squire
Imperial College London, March 2006.